

EMPIRE OF AIR

AN aeroplane leaves Canada at ten at night and reaches Britain at six next morning, doing the old mariners' ocean journey of months in as many hours. Distances no longer separate nations; the nations are linked together in the new Empire of Air. It was only last month that Washington was linked with London in a non-stop flight of 18 hours.

Across the trackless wastes of Africa the flying boat roars in the high domain of the sky to drop down on a blue sheet of water among the mountains of East Africa; it flies on across Arabia where the camel trains still make the slow pilgrimage to Mecca; its flying shadow passes over the sands where the ancient Arab lives as in the days of Abraham. So the aeroplane sweeps past the centuries into India and on to the underside of the world—flying out of one day into another; into a world where the time of today greets the time of yesterday. All distance is annihilated in the Empire of Air.

THIS empire of air is one of man's greatest achievements. It has all happened, too, so swiftly and efficiently that we rarely stop to think about it. A boy barely out of his teens, for instance, flies high into the sky above the Atlantic and watches a moving speck rolling on the Atlantic swell. It is his aircraft carrier. Unless he is able to land safely on that speck he is a lost creature of the skies. He swoops and with consummate control of brain over machine lands on that tossing platform. His art is a rare combination of the airman's skill and the sailor's knowledge of wind and sea. This boy is emperor of a new empire built without cities and all their splendour. He reigns not on the fixed earth but in the endless sweeping sky where no frontiers restrict.

One of Man's Oldest Dreams

This empire of the air is one of man's oldest dreams. From his most primitive days as he gazed on the sky and the sun he has dreamed of conquering the air. In his dreams he invented the young gods who flew into the eye of the sun; and in them he was sending the noblest and the best he knew soaring into the blue sky. Ambition to conquer the sky and to fly the highways of the heavens is deeply laid in the ancient story of man. Man has treasured it from the days of the Greeks on through medieval times into the great industrial age, but it has been left to the skill and technique of the twentieth century confidently to scale the heavens and snatch the secrets of the skies from their fastnesses.

THIS empire of the air is the one inclusive empire in mankind's history. No one yet has staked out claims to the permanent possession of any of its great spaces. Permission to fly through a country's sky may have to be sought, but the ways and the routes are open. The long, broad skyways of the flying boats and the great air cruisers are open to all. Skill, daring, and adventure are not the exclusive possession of any race, and it is these magic keys that have opened the doorways of this new empire. They have opened the portals of this vast new domain for all men to enter. The spirit which won the land continents and discovered their unknown wonders is also winning the unknown wonders of the air, for this new empire demands the same virtues and the same resources to win the same victories as in past days subdued the continents and the oceans.

THE domain of the air is therefore peculiarly an empire of youth. It is the young who today sail near the stars and strike the boundaries of the sun. It is the youth of the world who take their wings into the boundless spaces of the sky and top the mountains of the clouds. It is young men who ride with the wind in the free spaces of the heavens. Only the strong body, brain, and nerve are fit for this empire where skill and courage are tested in the stupendous balances of time and space. Here are the places where the noblest and the best strive for mastery, as they did in the pioneer days on the great land continents when the strongest and the bravest alone survived. So today the air continent asks for the same gifts and qualities.

A New Free World For All

The empire of air is only at its beginning. The war has hastened its conquest, and many of its highways are marked and known. Men, too, have grown more fearless as they have flown through its great unknown spaces. But the days of the air empire are still young. The fearless have only just begun to peer into all the quarters of the endless sky and to venture out into all regions of the unknown blue. The methods of this exploration are more sure and certain than ever they were, but every flyer is still a real pioneer. The great ships of the sky fly safely and well across thousands of miles of the air empire, and safety will be increased as more knowledge and skill are added to the airman's achievements. Yet these are still the pioneer days of air transport. Its great days are yet to come—days of easy travel for every one across the spaces of the sky and the clouds. Those days of travel for the common man through the empire of air are yet to come. Here is a new free world for all to move in, with its open spaces and highways ready for all.

THIS empire of air brings to the world a peculiar responsibility. Even more than land empires it can be used for good or evil. The fleets of the air can bring ruin and death upon the world's common people. This empire of air, sun, and sky may easily be an empire of gloom and fear. But the same skies may bring gladness and joy and the thrill of adventurous travel. The empire of air may be a menace of evil or a miracle of good. Man must choose. This choice of good or evil in the empire of air will be one of the most decisive of history. A choice must be made which way this empire is to develop. It may develop peacefully or it may develop tragically into a menace to the life and purpose of man.

The Splendour of This New Realm

This empire of air is God's creation. It was created by Him as a place where the morning stars sing and the sons of God shout for joy. Let it be that kind of empire for us—an empire of peace and movement, an empire of friendship between the nations where men may speak peace to men across the great air spaces and lift up their hearts and eyes to the wonders of the heavens and the oceans of space.

THIS new empire now stands within the government of man. He can control it to the glory of God and the service of his fellow men; or he may dedicate it to death and sorrow. Let the nations now see the splendour of this new realm and be highly resolved to use it for the glory and wonder which the Mind of the Infinite intended.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

EVERY
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No 1325

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Bread For Jack Tar

Men of a submarine-chaser carrying loaves on board before leaving for a patrol

FAITHFUL ABEMAMA

THIS story about Abemama, in the Gilbert Islands, which is now back in Allied hands, is typical of the loyalty of the people of the Pacific Islands to the British Administration.

When the Japanese landed on Abemama their first aim was to destroy the administration and disorganise the life of the island. All civil servants were dismissed, and it was ordered that all record books should be burned. Native officials were able to defeat this order, and when the island was liberated they produced from various hiding-places the Cash Book, the Court Minute Book, the Births Register, the Deaths Register, the Lands Register, the Prison Register, and the Bicycle Tax Book. Their

keenest regret was that they had not managed to save the rain gauge and the rainfall returns.

At the first opportunity, Abemama's senior official handed over to the proper authority £7 of Government revenue, and a British officer says of him: "I find his conduct during the whole time of the occupation to have been splendid. He attempted bravely to maintain the fabric of Government by resisting every order foreign to the Constitution, and remained adamantly faithful to his office and to the service of the people."

The Native Government of Abemama was restored, both in form and personnel as soon as the American troops landed to liberate the island.

The Pilot Was a Wren

THE first woman river-pilot to claim the ten shillings pilotage fee for navigating his Majesty's ships in tricky waters is Petty Officer Wren Pat Turner, the 21-year-old daughter of a Plymouth solicitor.

Pat was one of a few selected Wren coxswains especially picked for training as river-pilots a year before D Day.

Petty Officer Turner proved an apt pupil, and when she received her first call to duty she led a flotilla of landing craft safely through tortuous channels to their destination.

Since then she has made many

other pilotage trips, all without accident, and has received the same pilotage fee as a man.

Pat has been in the WRNS for four years, and her natural ability in handling launches very quickly won her the coveted position of coxswain.

"Curiously enough, I had never been in a boat before I joined the WRNS," she said, "but now I am absolutely at home in one, and intensely happy at my job."

Tall, fair and blue-eyed, Pat looks the picture of good health. Her heart is in sailing—it has been given to a sailorman, for Pat is engaged to a naval officer.

THE DRAMATIC MARCH ON TWO CAPITALS

Two Valorous Indians

LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE Russian armies in the course of their magnificent drive to the West have captured the great strongholds of Dvinsk, Lvov, Lublin, Brest-Litovsk, Przemyśl, Kaunas, and others; and they have reached the gates of two great European capitals, Warsaw and Riga. The liberation of these cities will be hailed both as a triumph and a portent by all in the Nazi-occupied territories.

Unlike Rome, the first capital to be freed from the Germans, Warsaw was ruthlessly bombed and shelled, and at the very outset of the war.

In the days of peace Warsaw, standing on the River Vistula, was a magnificent city. It had been a centre of trade between East and West since the Middle Ages. Its great navigable river connects it with the sea, and it was for centuries used as the chief route for Polish exports. The river is very attractive. In summer steamers and big cargo boats could be seen going down to Danzig, or small boats coming from Pulawy, and Sandomierz bringing loads of fine ripe fruit for the market.

The towering red roofs of the old houses, with clusters of green trees between, make a very beautiful picture. The Old Town is the most fascinating part of the city. Most of its houses were the homes of rich burghers and merchant princes centuries ago. They have their special names and their coats-of-arms. There is the House of the Ships, the House of the Lions, the House of the Negro, and so on. Some of the old streets are narrow, and hold under their pavements many secret passages which make good hiding-places. Close to the Old Town stand an ancient castle and the fine Gothic cathedral of St John, built in the 14th century.

One of the gems of Warsaw is her famous park. In the middle stands the old Royal Summer Theatre, an open amphitheatre with a stage built of marble in the fashion of a ruined temple. The stage itself is on an island, and a narrow stream of water enclosed in marble embankments separates it from the amphitheatre.

Before the German invasion the Polish State Theatre in Warsaw was the centre of a whole theatre system, comprising six theatres, a dramatic

school, a school of the ballet, two orchestras, and two choruses. For the love of art is very strong in the Poles and they are great lovers of beauty.

Let us hope that the liberation of their capital city will be the opening of a new and far happier chapter in the long story of Poland's struggle for existence.

WHEN the Russians take Riga, capital of Latvia, they will undoubtedly restore this ancient city to its former greatness.

Under the Tsars Riga was the third in importance of all Russian seaports, ranking next to St Petersburg (now Leningrad) and Odessa. It was indeed one of the busiest ports in Europe, particularly for the timber and grain trades; and it was also a great manufacturing centre, with many British merchants, some of whom remained there after the Revolution and the establishment of the independent Latvian Republic. The immense River Dvina (or Daugava, as the Letts call it), flowing into the sheltered Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea, gave Riga its fine position as a port.

Riga has no special beauty, though it has a number of interesting buildings. It lacks the charm of Tallinn, the lovely old capital of neighbouring Estonia, but it has a fine cathedral, a quaint old "Powder Tower," a sinister but most interesting group of old Germanic guild houses, and some delightful sandy pine-fringed beaches not far away, two of its resorts being named Edimbourg and Dublinit, after the capitals of Scotland and Ireland. The population, close on 400,000, was half German, including many German-speaking Jews, a quarter Russian, a quarter Lettish. Its Nazis and Prussian squires, who have had their own House of the Black Knights here for centuries, will, we can prophesy, soon be cleared out.

The Poor Boy Who Became Shah

THERE passed away in Johannesburg the other day a former Shah of Persia, who, had he chosen Britain and Russia as his friends instead of Nazis would have kept his throne.

Shah Riza Pahlavi was a poor fatherless Iranian who rose from private to colonel in the Cossack Brigade and in 1921 led it to capture Teheran and overthrow the inept Persian Government.

Appointed commander-in-chief, he reformed the army and the national finances so successfully that in 1925 the Kajar dynasty was deposed and Riza ascended the throne of Darius.

Riza introduced Western ideas into this ancient land, emancipating her women, promoting education, erecting noble buildings and constructing a £30,000,000 railway from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf.

THE PASSING OF AN ARTIST

THE death of Lieutenant Rex Whistler—he was killed in action in Normandy—is a sad blow, for he was an artist whose singular promise as a very young man had later been fully borne out.

His was a many-sided art, for he was equally at home with big mural decoration as with book-illustration, with costume and scenery for the stage, and with portraiture.

Rex Whistler, who was only 39, was a Londoner, and it is London which can claim as its own his most widely known work. This is his delightful decoration of the Tate Gallery refreshment-room called *The Pursuit of Rare Meats*. Acclaimed on all sides as both an hors-d'œuvre and a chef d'œuvre, it instantly won fame for him when he was only 22.

THE VC has been awarded to Sepoy Kamal Ram, of the 8th Punjab Regiment, and to the late Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, of the 9th Jat Regiment, for valiant deeds in foreign fields.

Kamal Ram, who is only 19 and the youngest VC of this war, won the honour in Italy and was decorated by the King during his visit to the troops. It was during an engagement near Cassino, after his company had been held up by fire from four machine-gun posts. Volunteering to go forward and silence one of them, he succeeded in his task. He then went on alone to capture the second post, and, with this great feat also accomplished, proceeded to help a comrade to destroy a third post. Thus did he enable his company to charge and gain vital ground.

Abdul Hafiz gained the award in the Burma hills north of Imphal, inspiring his men to attack the Japanese up a bare slope, leading them into the deadly fray shouting the Mohammedan war cry, and continuing to encourage them in their task even as he lay mortally wounded—"an example to all ranks it would be difficult to equal."

AGE CANNOT WITHER HIM

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW has had a birthday—his 88th—and has been receiving the universal plaudits that are his due. It has indeed been a notable occasion, and it has also engendered a new crop of good stories about this almost legendary figure.

One of the most delightful concerns Mr Shaw's decision to live at Ayot St Lawrence. It appears that he went there many years ago and, during the course of his wanderings, saw in the churchyard the tomb of a lady who had been laid to her final rest at the age of 90. On it was the inscription, *Her Time was Short*.

"This is certainly the place for me," was Mr Shaw's characteristic comment, and forthwith he proceeded to dwell there. It has proved a happy choice, if we may say so, both for GBS and for the little Hertfordshire village. Certainly there must be something in the Ayot St Lawrence air, and we trust that it will long continue to bestow its youth-perpetuating quality on our Grand Young Man of Letters.

The Princess Signs

WHILE the King was visiting his fighting forces in Italy recently Princess Elizabeth was one of the Counsellors of State appointed to act in his absence.

History was made when the Princess for the first time signed a commission authorising a Royal Commission. The other signature to the document was that of the Queen. The Royal Commission, consisting of the Lord Chancellor (Viscount Simon), the Earl of Lucan, and Lord Daryngton, were empowered to give the Royal Assent to Acts which had been passed by both Houses of Parliament.

ANOTHER attempt to compose the long-standing differences in India between Hindus and Moslems is to be made this month when Mr Gandhi will meet Mr Jinnah at his house in Bombay.

The Bill to provide family allowances in Canada passed its second reading without one opposing vote.

The independence of Syria has been recognised by the U.S.S.R., and diplomatic relations have been established.

Hertfordshire County Council are buying a house and estate at Ware as a home for children whose mothers temporarily are unable to look after them.

Small savings of this war have reached the £3,000,000,000 mark.

To bring our Universities up-to-date a British Association committee recommends the expenditure of £25,000,000.

SURREY County Council is setting up at Worplesden its first Farm Institute for Agricultural Education.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Poland have visited Moscow to discuss Polish affairs with Marshal Stalin.

Since the war broke out 3,600,000 tons of paper have been salvaged.

An African baby, carried native-fashion on his mother's back, was introduced to a friend in South Africa as Edna Winston Eisenhower.

Mrs Isabella MacLeod of the Isle of Lewis, who is 107, has a great-great-grandson, just born in the U.S.A.

Liberation News Reel

THE German army on the Eastern front has been losing an average of 530 men every hour since the opening of the Russian summer offensive.

Only 36 hours after an urgent request was received in the U.S.A. 43 tons of radio equipment reached Normandy, having been sent by air.

UNRRA plans to provide prefabricated houses for Europe's 30 million homeless people.

Recently a Russian Military Mission visited Caen and the battle area of Normandy.

Eleven tented hospitals, including six which will take 200 beds, are waiting to follow the Allied armies to help the liberated civilians.

Youth News Reel

NOTTINGHAM Boy Scouts are collecting jam jars which jam manufacturers have promised to purchase, the proceeds from the sale going to the Fund for Greek Children.

By delivering receipts for donations in the Red Cross financial campaign the Fort Erie, Ontario, Scouts saved the local Red Cross Society 35 dollars (approximately £4 10s 0d) in postage.

"Our good turn included giving a place to sleep, plus supper and breakfast, to a liker we found wandering round the town unable to get into a hostel, and extending an open invitation to some Scouts now in the Army who were stationed nearby—writes a Liverpool Scout Troop Leader on returning from a week-end camp."

Hull is in future to be styled Kingston-upon-Hull in all its official documents and letters.

Air raids on the City of London have resulted in a loss of over £1,000,000 a year in rates.

AGREEMENT has been made for vast quantities of Canadian timber to be imported into this country after the war.

Birmingham City Council have approved a scheme for an inner ring road which will cost nearly £15,000,000.

On the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Bank of England a barony was conferred on Mr Montagu Norman, for 24 years its Governor.

A 15-year scheme to double India's agricultural production is being considered. The initial outlay will be £750 million, and a further £15 million will be spent annually.

Newcastle-on-Tyne has raised for the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund the highest amount of any provincial city in Great Britain.

Australia is voting on August 19 in a referendum for wider constitutional powers for the Commonwealth Parliament during the five years after the war.

The U.S. Government has issued a statement summing up its reasons for not recognising the Farrell Government of Argentina.

BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS are to open a service between Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first British air service between two South American states.

The King recently knighted General Leese on the battlefield, and at the same time presented VCs to their winners.

AMERICAN casualties in all theatres of war up to July 6 totalled 207,283.

Our troops in France are being entertained by films which have not yet been released in England.

Aircraft of the U.S. Ninth Troop Carrier Command have evacuated thousands of wounded from France and have landed 4,000,000 lbs of equipment on front line airstrips.

Dakota machines of R.A.F. Transport Command have brought 10,000 Allied and German wounded from Normandy to Britain since D Day.

When asked by his mother whether he would like to be evacuated with the other children, a young Scout in Southern England replied: "No, mother, I am on war work, collecting my waste-paper."

Four Ottawa boys, all former members of the 30th Ottawa Sea Scout Troop, are to sail this summer to the Arctic with the Canadian Government ship *Nascope*.

There are now over 100 squadrons in the Australian Air Training Corps.

Soon after a flying bomb had fallen on a town in Southern England a Guide Captain appeared at the Incident Inquiry Point and offered the services of a group of Guides, who were soon busily sweeping and scrubbing in damaged houses.

The Children's Newspaper, August 12, 1944

The Old Boys Come South

IN the ordeal of Southern England there has been a fine gesture from the Midlands, the North, and the West, which are sending Civil Defence volunteers to help with difficulties arising from the flying bombs.

Of all the devoted bands of helpers, perhaps Derby supplies the most remarkable example. Derby sent a company of a dozen brave old gentlemen, all over 70, all well-trained, competent wardens, many of them veterans of the South African as well as the last world-war, with sons and

grandsons in the fighting-line today.

The oldest, Mr Fred Phillips, a retired LMS railway-guard, is 75, and there are other former railway workers, as well as craftsmen, men of various trades and callings.

Though they were undeterred by risks they need not have challenged, they all agreed that their fellow-citizens in the bomb-free areas had no idea of the ordeal which "the folks down south" were meeting with such calm and cheerfulness.

CHRISTINE'S CHRISTENING

THE youngest evacuee to arrive in Sheffield from Southern England was 17-day-old Christine Anne Mortimer. When Christine arrived, blissfully unaware of all the trouble her mother had been put to, she had not been christened, and arrangements for this were immediately put in hand at the rest centre—a Methodist Church—which was her temporary home. Elaborate christening robes were lent by the WVS, and the ceremony was a complete success.

But Christine Anne will have another link with the City of Steel as soon as he heard about her arrival, the Lord Mayor of Sheffield offered to be her godfather. He and the Lady Mayoress also gave the child a silver christening spoon as a token of her visit to the city.

Sheffield has given its visitors a really warm welcome, fully living up to its tradition of generous hospitality and neighbourliness.

COINCIDENCE

THE Mayor of Canterbury, Alderman Charles Lefevre, has received a letter from Captain R. E. Port, a former Canterbury police inspector who is now serving in Normandy, telling him that among French mayors he has met in the course of his duties is a M. Lefevre! Alderman Lefevre is a member of a Huguenot family.

HEROISM ON THE TRACK

BEHIND the award of the George Cross to Driver Benjamin Gimbert and Fireman James William Nightall, both of the LNER, there is one of the finest stories of cool, calculated courage that has come from this or any other war.

The leading wagon of their ammunition train caught alight as they steamed into a Cambridgeshire station. As the train drew to a standstill Fireman Nightall leapt from the footplate and uncoupled the blazing truck so that it could be hauled clear of the train of 50 ammunition trucks behind it. The explosion of such a vast quantity of ammunition would have put the lives of the villagers in dire peril. Then Driver Gimbert, the gallant fireman again by his side, got up steam and hauled the burning truck into open country, shouting to the signalman in his box as he passed to keep the line clear. Then the wagon blew up. Nightall was killed, and Gimbert was badly wounded.

Their self-sacrificing action will for ever be an epic of the railroad.

PRICELESS BOOKS

DR ALBERT A. BERG recently presented the New York Public Library with several volumes of exceptional interest. Two of them were printed by William Caxton at Westminster in 1480, these being *The Chronicles of England* and its sequel, *The Description of Britain*, which belonged to the late Lord Lothian. The collection also includes several manuscripts by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

A PIECE OF STRING

PEOPLE in Trinidad—fishermen and farmers especially—are getting short of string.

Like so many other British dependencies, the island-colony is determined, however, to help the war as much as possible by making at home goods which would otherwise take up precious shipping-space as imports.

The people of Trinidad are now making their own rope and string. Several local trees have fibrous inner barks, and the central mid-ribs of the leaves of banana, fig, and plantain provide another kind of fibre.

The Trinidad Government has issued advice on how best to use these fibres. First, the short fibres should be twisted together into one continuous strand, taking care that the joints are not all at one place. Then the long strands should be moistened with linseed oil before they are twisted together into string or rope. The second twisting has to be done in the opposite direction to the first, and it is this counter-twist that puts the "give" into the finished cordage.



LITTLE LONDONERS
IN THE COUNTRY

THE WEIR HOUSE

THE first demonstration house under the present programme of the Scottish Special Housing Association was opened in Edinburgh recently.

Viscount Weir revealed that another of these steel houses with over a hundred small modifications will probably be on view in Glasgow at the end of September.

This latest type of Scottish dwelling is of the bungalow type and is very attractive. It has a living room, kitchenette, three bedrooms, and bathroom, with built-in cupboards and wardrobes, and many other new labour-saving appliances.

A Surprise For the Judge

THE Dorset Natural History Society tells of the discovery of a rare Iris by children of Chickerell near Weymouth. It is called *Iris spuria*, and a quantity of these lovely violet-blue blossoms were entered for a wild flower competition.

Thinking the flowers had been picked from a garden the judge was going to disqualify the exhibits containing them, but he got a surprise when he was told that they had grown for years in a local hayfield.

Samples were sent to Kew and the British Museum of Natural

History, and the botanists reported that English wild specimens had only been known to grow in ditches at Huttoft on the coast of Lincolnshire. This Iris is found abroad in France, Spain, and North Africa, and has even been noted as far away as Kashmir. The English plants are stouter and taller than those in the rest of Europe, and like heavy, rich soil, stiff clay, or sandy loam.

It is hoped that children in many more villages will be able to find this striking flower in their fields.

A LONDON STONE

A HISTORICAL memorial stone which has stood the stress of 700 years has been destroyed by an Army lorry in a second.

Set up in 1206 to mark the boundary of London's fishing rights in the Medway, it has been a well-known landmark all through these centuries at Upnor, near Strood, in Kent. On it are carved the words God Preserve the City of London.

A WAY WITH RATS

LONDON has been made healthier by the destruction of nearly a million sewer-rats in the last six months.

Now we learn that the same kind of sanitary problem is being tackled by the Colonial Health Service in the Gold Coast, where an ingenious kind of trap is used. A glue-like varnish is spread on brown paper or trays, and baited with a tempting piece of food: the rat, in going to eat the bait, finds himself stuck to the varnish and so is caught.

To save import shipping-space in wartime, the Gold Coast is now making its own anti-rat varnish. Using rubber-latex waste, produced locally, an enterprising young sanitary superintendent has invented an effective varnish substitute. In the trial tests, two trays of this varnish caught 369 rats and mice in four weeks, and so proved it more effective than the imported anti-rat varnish, the old-fashioned cage-trap, or the ordinary mouse-trap used by British housewives.

THE END OF A PRODIGY

FORTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD William James Sidis, who was called the "world's greatest boy genius" a generation ago, has died in a Boston hospital. He was penniless, for in spite of his great learning he had been incapable of earning a living.

Sidis was renowned for his feats of scholarship. At six months he could recite the alphabet, at two years he could read and write, and at six spoke and wrote several foreign languages. At the age of eleven his theories of a fourth dimension startled the scientific world, and at sixteen he graduated brilliantly from Harvard University.

In spite of this prodigious learning, however, William Sidis was never able to keep a job. He was even unable to hold a job as an adding-machine clerk with a Wall Street firm, and had drifted aimlessly from one menial job to another.

THE PERFECT SCOUT

HE is a perfect example of what a Scout should be. This was the tribute paid by his Scoutmaster to Horace Small, aged 15, a pupil of South Shields High School, who has been awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for courage, fortitude, and cheerfulness during three years of suffering caused by a fall which injured his arm. He has had nine operations.

A LESSON IN HOUSING

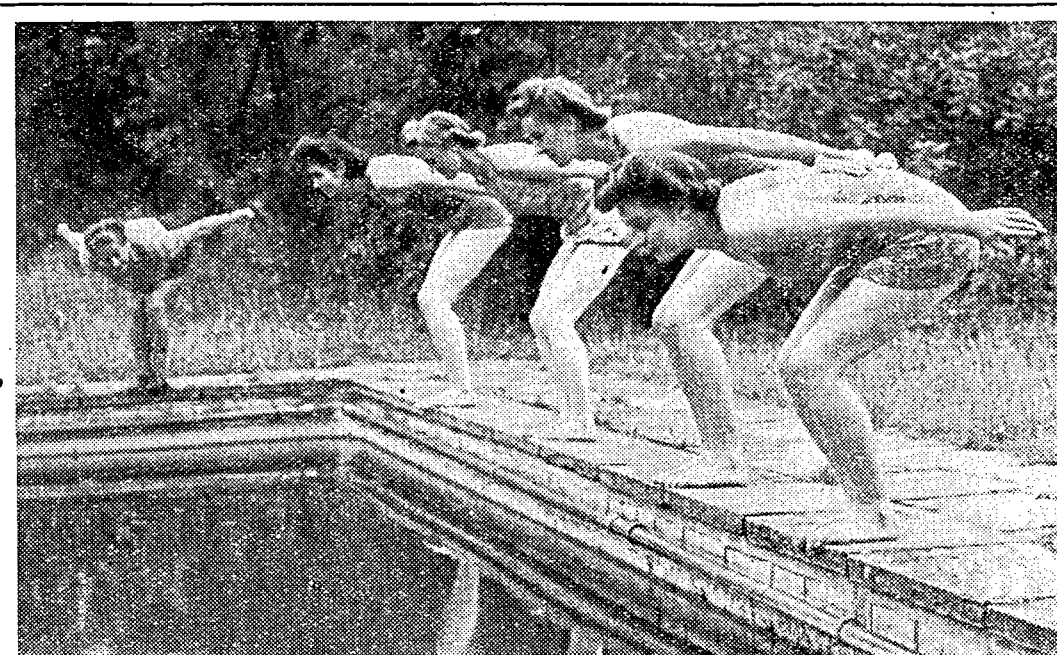
WE are indebted to the US Government for opening in London an exhibition of American housing in war and peace, the work of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. It was opened recently at the Royal Institute of British Architects at Portland Place, London, by Mr Winant, the American Ambassador.

The exhibition shows various experiments made in mass housing, much of which has been done under emergency conditions, through industrial expansion and the migration of over 10 million workers to new homes through the war.

It reveals American success in prefabricated houses, quickly erected by trained teams. With movable houses which can be placed wherever they are most needed, and with an establishment of temporary communities housed in a system of trailer caravans for immediate needs, we have new light on old problems.

In both permanent and temporary housing plans, shops, schools, swimming baths, nurseries, hospitals, and both indoor and outdoor playing facilities are treated with great skill.

The exhibition will remain open until August 26.



The Way to Health

A morning dip for convalescent girls of the ATS at a centre somewhere in England



In Italy Now

Men of the Eighth Army wind their way down into the beautiful Arno Valley

THE 2000-PUPIL HIGH SCHOOL

LONDON, we are promised, is to have a new type of school after the war. It is to serve the purposes, under a single roof, of Grammar School, Technical School, and Modern Senior School. This type of school, of which there are to be 90, is to house 2000 children on a basis of equality and to give the widest possible secondary education combined with all the social and other benefits of school life. Every boy or girl will be given equal opportunity for physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual training, with the full development of personality as the main objective.

The Education Committee's report says that life in school should promote a feeling of social unity among young people of all kinds and degrees of ability. If a child was discovered to be taking the wrong kind of education for his proper development, under the high school system a transfer from one section to another could

be made painlessly and smoothly. The child would remain in the same school and thus lose nothing of his common life and companionship.

America, Scotland, and the European Continent have proved the success of large schools. Their organisation is more flexible, their choice of subjects more varied, and their amenities greater than in smaller schools. These big schools for all will call for an immense building programme. While this is in process, it is suggested, existing schools in an area should be grouped into a high school unit, sharing equipment, amenities, and as many activities as possible.

Presenting the report to the LCC, Mrs l'Estrange Malone said that the idea was revolutionary and would have to be achieved by evolution.

The C N welcomes this big scheme as a notable contribution to the new London.

Some Begin Early and Some Begin Late

AUTHORS are lucky people in that they can begin their life-work at any age, and carry it on under almost any conditions. Helen Mathers wrote *Comin' Thro' the Rye*, a remarkable best-seller of the last generation, at the age of 16. In our own time, Marjorie Bowen, who has written so many fine books under that pen-name and as George Preedy, was only 17 when *The Viper of Milan* made her famous. This was a truly remarkable novel, a romance of the most interesting and thrilling days of Italian history, written with splendid fire and spirit, and with first-rate historical detail. Mollie Panter-Downes is another now-popular author who began as a schoolgirl. There is, indeed, no limit to youth in authorship, as we are reminded by *The Young Visitors*, written by Daisy Ashford when she was nine!

In certain fields, indeed, youth has to wait. Books of reminiscences, for example, are the

privilege of maturity, even though Mr Beverley Nichols gave us his at the age of 25. But few writers delay their reminiscences as long as Mr Henry Irish.

This citizen of Surrey is 95, but he has just begun to write his memoirs, and is confident that he will have them ready for the printer this time next year. He is the last survivor of a family of ten children and was born just 12 years after Victoria came to the throne. Apprenticed to a Hastings draper 80 years ago, he went into business for himself the year after our Prime Minister was born—and that is nearly 70 years ago.

Mr. Irish is a son of Marmaduke Irish, who kept a coaching-inn at Bagshot in the days when coaches still ran on our roads, and the patrons still told thrilling stories of Bagshot Heath as a dangerous resort of highwaymen. If Mr Henry Irish cannot give us some exciting reminiscences nobody can.

Friend of the Coolies

FOUR years ago a Society was started in Mussoorie, India, to help the coolies and rickshaw-pullers, who are often overworked, underpaid, and uncared for. The society has only 45 members, but it has already done much good work.

One of the members, A. D. Sirswal of Cawnpore, went to live among the coolies of Mussoorie so as to find out from experience their needs and what could be done for them. On a hot June day he was hired to help pull the rickshaw of a princess on "a stiff climb" for three miles. The princess wanted us to run. Well, if we had been horses we could not have run. So we were treated to a really remarkable display of abuse from a princess so young and beautiful.

On another occasion he carried a load on a very wet day for a barrister, who not only underpaid him at the end, but refused him permission to shelter from the rain, even for a little while. Other similar experiences showed him that the coolies had good reasons for their grievances. He also discovered that what people called the "stupid fear of hospitals and doctors" shown by the coolies was based on experiences when they had been asked for tips, which they could not afford, by porters and other hospital officials before they were treated.

Bribery has been one of the coolies' worst troubles, and here the Mazdoor Seva Sangh, as the society for their assistance is called, has been able to take practical steps. Witnesses have been sent with the coolies to places where clerks, and even policemen, demanded commission before they would give work, and the offenders have been dismissed or prevented from asking for bribes.

Four centres have been started where coolies are taught to read Hindi by Dr Frank Laubach's simplified method. Reading and writing are of real importance to them, for the illiterate are entirely at the mercy of the literate in the matter of weights, charges, and payments, especially when they are only paid at long intervals by some agencies.

An entertainment in Mussoorie last year provided the funds for a dispensary where the coolies can get free advice and prescriptions, and can obtain medicines at a reduced rate. The society hopes next to provide shelters for use in the wet weather.

Men of all communities are joining in this work, pricking the consciences of private individuals and municipal authorities on behalf of some of the most neglected of their fellow-citizens.

LAKE THAT CHANGES COLOUR

LAKE BAROMBI, in Nigeria, well known because its water sometimes changes colour, has made another change—from blue to muddy grey. Hundreds of fish were found dead on the water, sufficient to feed the shore population for ten days.

These changes are caused by subterranean explosions in a crater beneath the lake, but the natives firmly believe an old African legend that witches employ this means of showing their sympathy for the people by feeding them.

EDITOR'S TABLE

A Promise Is a Bond

A SAILOR hurried into a YMCA centre at a London station to borrow a needle and cotton for some sewing on his journey to his ship. He promised to return them, and six weeks later he did so.

The word "promise" is in danger of falling into disrepute, and statesmen's promises are often referred to as "mere promises" or "empty promises." It behoves us all to stand by our word if men are to regain that confidence in one another without which the best-made plans will "gang a-gley." The sailor kept his word; we might all make a good beginning by being equally faithful in little things.

The Label on the Can

THE Government have decided that all foodstuffs sold in packages or tins next year must be labelled to reveal exactly what they hold. The Ministry of Food Order insists that the label must bear the name and address, or the registered trade mark, of the packer or person for whom the food is packed, together with the usual name of the food, or of each ingredient, and the quantity in each package.

Special requirements have to be satisfied for foods in which vitamins or mineral content is claimed. The word vitamin must not be used to mislead the public, and claims must not be made either on the labels or in the advertisements unless supported by a statement of the nature of the vitamin and the quantity of it offered for sale.

In plain English, the new year will sound the knell of the old saying, "Never judge the contents by the label on the can."

JUST AN IDEA

It's a poor kind of fence that a man sets up round his own heart.

CARRY ON

HE WHO CAN WAIT

Who bides his time, and fevers not
In the hot race that none achieves,
Shall wear cool-wreathen laurel, wrought
With crimson berries in the leaves;
And he shall reign a goodly king,
And sway his hand o'er every clime,
With peace writ on his signet-ring,
Who bides his time.

James Whitcomb Riley

Good in Everything

WE know more surely every day that whatever appears to us harmful in the universe has some beneficent or necessary operation.

John Ruskin

INDUSTRY AT

WE have said here on more than one occasion that Science and Industry should move together hand in hand.

It is, therefore, good news that one of our greatest industrial organisations, Imperial Chemical Industries, has offered to nine universities in Great Britain no fewer than 80 Fellowships in certain sciences. The Fellowships are of an average value of £600 and the present scheme is to operate for seven years. While the Fellows are to be mainly concerned with research they must also take part in university teaching.

In his letter to the Chancellors of the nine universities Lord McGowan, Chairman of ICI, says:

Use the Inland

MR NOEL BAKER, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of War Transport, has assured Parliament that the Government are closely studying the future organisation of our canals and other inland waterways in relation to the general transport system. Consultation is taking place with representatives of the canal undertakings and of canal carriers. The Government are said to be giving special attention to en-

Under the E

SOMEONE called the PETER
British a nation of WANT
shopkeepers. Good at KNO
counter attacks.

HOUSES should not be
filled only with coal
stoves, says a housewife.
Wants a wider range.

NOR more than fifteen
per cent of the Ger-
man people stand behind
Hitler. More could get
behind Goering.

A BOY says he makes
many friends at the
swimming bath. Falls in
with people. If How
is a catel

Nature's Clo

THE pastoral writers of other countries appear as if they had paid Nature an occasional visit, and become acquainted with her general charms; but the British poets have lived and revelled with her; they have wooed her in her most secret haunts; they have watched her minutest caprices.

A spray could not tremble in

THE GUIDING HAND

WHITHER shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. From Psalm 139

SCIENCE

"We hope that Fellows will be elected in such a manner as will strengthen a school of an essential subject which is temporarily weak, adequately assist one already strong, and not attempt to do something which is manifestly much better done elsewhere. It is reasonable to assume that if our scheme works well others may feel disposed to make similar subventions."

ICI is, of course, intimately concerned with matters scientific and many great discoveries have been made in its laboratories. The nation as a whole will benefit from this most practical gesture which we feel sure will give the lead to other industrial organisations.

Waterways

Engineering projects for the improvement of waterways from the sea to the Midlands.

The sea is for Britain a splendid natural canal, but there is no reason why shore to centre should not be developed by fine waterways.

If they were adequately developed, our inland waterways could relieve the overcrowded roads of much heavy traffic which many of them were not built to withstand.

Editor's Table

PUCK SOME tradesmen have too much on their hands. And not enough on their counters.

SOME teachers are always complaining to the principal. Like to bring things to a head.

THE trade in second-hand bicycles has fallen off. Also some of the purchasers.

A GIRL who used to be a draper's assistant now works on the land. Measures everything by the phrase farm-yard.

se Observers

the breeze, a leaf could not rustle to the ground, a diamond drop could not patter in the stream, a fragrance could not exhale from the humble violet, not a daisy unfold its crimson tints to the morning, but it has been noticed by these impassioned and delicate observers, and wrought up into some beautiful morality. *W. Irving*

CHERISH GOOD

HEEED how thou livest. Do no act by day
Which from the night shall drive thy peace away.
In months of sun so live that months of rain
Shall still be happy. Evermore restrain
Evil and cherish good, so shall there be
Another and a happier life for thee.
J. G. Whittier

The Rival Towers of Lincoln

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL, "seated on her sovereign hill," is a noble spectacle. But it is a spectacle, threatened apparently, just as Durham Cathedral is, by the building of an electrical power station.

There has been serious debate on the subject at the City Council, the main objection being the proposal to build two cooling towers, each 200 feet high, and, accompanying the towers, chimneys which would raise their heads to challenge the glorious towers of the cathedral.

As the matter stands the Council have decided by 15 votes to 11 that none of the suggested alternatives are workable; and the City Electrical Engineer says that the towers will embody architectural ornamentation which will provide relief from the regular lines. Councillor Hill, on the other hand, has spoken of the proposed towers as "hideous in colour, shape, and size."

Meanwhile the Dean and the Bishop of Lincoln have expressed the hope that the Minister for Town and Country Planning will hold a local inquiry. As in the case of Durham cathedral, this contest between beauty and utility presents very serious difficulties.

Warrior Band

THE Chindits, renowned warriors of the steaming jungles of Burma, are to lose their famous name. They are to be officially referred to in future as the Third Indian Division, or by the titles of the regiments to which they belong.

Namesakes of the mythical dragons whose stone bodies guard the entrances to all Burmese temples, the Chindits were so-called by their gallant leader, Major-General Orde Wingate.

Whatever their official title the name Chindits will live long in history as that of a half-legendary band, a band of fearless warriors.

QUIET STRENGTH

The tender filaments of flowers
In silence grow,
Quietly through the sleepless hours
The rivers flow.
God's wisdom in His still, small voice
Makes no display,
Yet they who hear it as their choice
Life's currents sway.

For, as the tides obey the moon,
As stars revolve,
So nought is ever late or soon
To God's resolve.

T. Pittaway

The Freedom of Prayer

No man can hinder our private addresses to God: every man can build a chapel in his breast, himself the priest, his heart the sacrifice, and the earth he treads the altar.

Jeremy Taylor

America Re-Enters Her Own

VERY much in the news just now, despite the competition of events so much nearer, is the little island of Guam, largest of the Ladrone or Mariana Islands, remote outposts of the north-central Pacific.

A little larger than our Isle of Wight, Guam's chief importance before the war was as a cable station, though it was quite important as a naval station forming a half-way house between the Philippines and the west coast of the USA. The Americans took it over in 1898, at the same time as they took the Philippines from the Spaniards; and when they have "finished the job" here, they will have reconquered the first of their overseas possessions captured by the Japanese.

The Japs say the Americans have sent two divisions for this task, which suggests between 30,000 and 40,000 men. The 20,000 to 25,000 Japs on Guam have fought fiercely to retain their hold on an island fortress which, once lost by them, should lead to the swift reconquest of the Philippines and the subsequent all-out attack on Japan itself.

Though the native population of Guam is only about 20,000, the contesting forces must tend to make it a somewhat crowded area in these exciting days. Let us hope it will not be long before the ordeal of the islanders is over, and peace and order are restored in a little island destined to play a big part in world-communications and world safety in the future.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR BRITISH OPERA

WHEN we think of Covent Garden we think not only of the famous flower and fruit market, with its jostling crowds and friendly porters, but also of opera—grand opera. For in Covent Garden stands the Royal Opera House, which down the years has seen many splendid seasons with famous singers and conductors from every part of the world. The great operas of Wagner, Mozart, Verdi, to name but a few composers, have here been regularly performed. But opera is a costly business, and for the greater part of the year the Royal Opera House has had to be used for other purposes.

What of the future? At present the Opera House is closed. There is good hope, however, that when the war is over it will not be long before it can be opened again.

Messrs Boosey and Hawkes, the music publishers, have announced that they have obtained the lease of the Opera House, and that they hope to adopt a long-term policy of presenting opera. An advisory panel has been formed to help them and, when the scheme gets under way, British composers and British artists should have a real opportunity to take their part in opera under first-class conditions. The committee of management will include Sir Stanley Marchant, Sir Kenneth Clark, and Dr William Walton.

Here at last is a prospect for opera to become really established in England as a regular part of the national life.

LOVELY LACOCK

THE abbey and village of Lacock have been given to the National Trust by Miss Matilda Talbot, and the gift has warmed the hearts of all Englishmen who know this fair corner of their native land.

Lacock is one of the loveliest villages in Wiltshire, and, indeed, in all the land. Fair is it to behold, with its winding streets of old houses, its mellow gabled roofs and timbered fronts, its ancient cross and church, and its venerable, richly storied abbey. Who has not loved to linger there—in the grey old square, or down by the bridge across the stream?

Lacock Church is full of interest for those who seek it, a rich repository of village history. But Lacock Abbey, set in its spacious meadow by the Avon, enshrines a bigger story, for it has come down the centuries from the time of Magna Carta. Indeed, its history is woven into the life of a beautiful lady whose husband was at Runnymede when King John sealed the Charter. She was Ela, Countess of Salisbury, and he was William Longsword.

Theirs is one of the romantic stories of medieval England. Ela was only seven when her father, second Earl of Salisbury, died, and as a rich heiress she was the king's ward, and Richard Lionheart chose for her husband his own stepbrother, William Longsword, who so became Earl of Salisbury. He was often away at the wars, but he was a devoted husband, and when, on his long absence in France, everyone assumed his death, nothing could persuade her that she would not see him again.

Her dreams were to come true, but the earl returned home worn by shipwreck and privation, and they laid him to rest in Salisbury cathedral. His sorrowful countess waited for their son to come of age and then founded the Abbey of Lacock. She became its abbess, died here, and here was laid to rest, having carried on her work for 35 years after William Longsword died. The sacristy, the chapels where she prayed, the chapter house where she zealously governed her nuns, the cloisters where she walked, are still here, and have an enchanting vista of vaulting.

From the river the Abbey presents one long windowed front with sloping roof and twisted chimneys, and, at right angles to it, separated by an octagonal and balustraded tower, is a front

of a later day with oriel windows and sumptuous decoration in stone. It was through the smallest oriel window on this front that William Fox Talbot made his first negative, taking a photograph that has become historic.

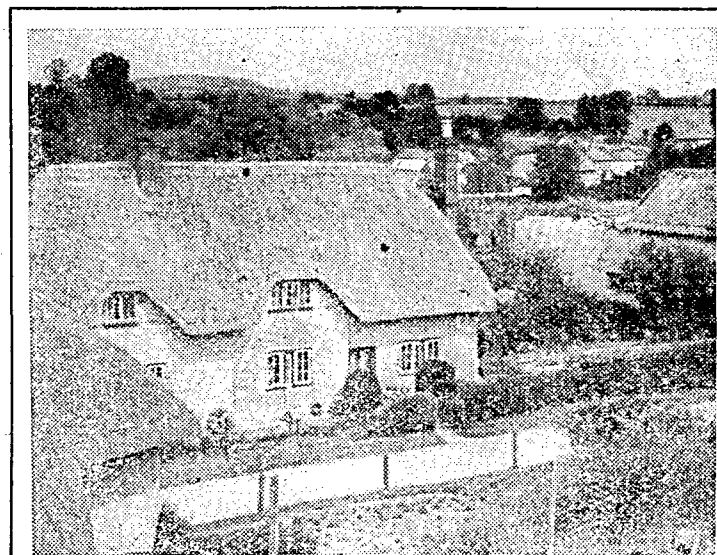
William Fox Talbot, who was born at Lacock Abbey in 1800, made it famous in the history of science. He was an expert archaeologist, but his chief claim to fame is his pioneer work in photography, and his triumph lay in the fact that his photographs could be duplicated in the form of prints.

The medieval features of Lacock Abbey are happily preserved because Sir William Sharlington, who came into possession of it after the Dissolution, merged them skilfully with his Tudor buildings.

Later owners were less inspired than Sir William; but, taken all in all, this ancient place, with its entrancing 13th-century chapel and cloister, its roofed walk over the site of the old church, its fascinating hall rebuilt in the reign of George the Third, and the miraculous way in which all are blended make it a remarkable example of the evolution of architecture in England and at the same time one of the most beautiful of our historic houses.

Paper-Saving Record

A RECORD in saving paper is claimed by a resident of Christchurch, New Zealand, who possesses a wrapper which has made four return journeys to England on postal packets. The wrapper first came into use as the covering for periodicals posted to England in January, 1941. The English recipient returned the wrapper as a covering for papers. In this way the wrapper made return trips in 1941 and in 1942. It was last dispatched to England in July 1943, and recently completed its fourth return trip, arriving in Christchurch in April 1944. Despite its long travels, the wrapper is still in fair order and the owner anticipates sending it another trip across the world this year.



THIS ENGLAND

Thatched cottages in the charming Hampshire village of Upper Wallop

The Bank of the World

THE conclusion of the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods, in the United States, has been generally received with thankfulness and approval.

The representatives of 44 nations have agreed about the establishment of two hopeful institutions for world-wide organisation designed to help the United Nations to work together after the war.

The first of these, the International Monetary Fund, is to provide short-term credit facilities to enable the member countries to deal with temporary difficulties arising out of the balance of payments. The second, the World Bank, is to provide facilities for long-term loans, so that member nations able to furnish exports without asking for immediate payment shall be able to assist other nations to bring about long-term projects of rehabilitation and of industrialisation designed to raise the standard of living. The Conference does not confer executive powers on either institution, for the Parliament of each of the nations concerned has to ratify the agreement before it can become operative.

In the meantime, it is good to know that the representatives of

44 nations, brought together in pursuit of common purposes, have agreed upon the setting up of institutions designed to assist their monetary operations.

It is particularly promising that Russia has agreed to increase its subscription to the World Bank and has thereby confirmed the entry of the USSR into the international monetary framework.

All that would seem necessary now is for the nations themselves, through their Parliaments, to agree to the work of their representatives, and to reduce the projected operations to terms of practical work.

The subscribed capital of the World Bank has been raised by the new Russian agreement to a total of £2,275,000,000. We hope that we shall soon be able to record that action by each of the 44 nations has made it possible to confirm what Lord Keynes, the British representative, has said, that "No similar conference within memory has achieved such a bulk of lucid, solid construction."

GOLDFISH IN WARTIME

GOLDFISH today cost anything from ten shillings to several pounds! But some fortunate young people have been getting fine goldfish for nothing.

The donor is a prosperous City business man, who has solved the not-too-easy problem of breeding goldfish by the thousand in a Greater London garden. Though it is only twelve years since he bought his first goldfish, he now has so many swimming in the two fine pools he has built for their delight that he has plenty to spare for

others. Some are very fine specimens indeed. One which he gave, with others, to the London Zoo, is worth £25.

We hope the people who have benefited by this good man's kindness will do as much for their new pets as he has done. For years this goldfish-fancier, busy at his profession all day, has risen at half-past five each morning to feed and tend his pets. Back in his garden soon after 5 p.m. his first thought is to see that the goldfish are kept lively and happy.

FAIR EXCHANGE

MR QUENTIN REYNOLDS, the American broadcaster, who stayed in London for the first blitz of 1940 and thrilled the United States with the tale of British pluck and steadfastness, has written a book called *The Curtain Rises*, dealing with his travels in 1943 in search of war news all the world over.

One of his amusing stories gives us a diverting glimpse of "local Lend-Lease" between ourselves and our American Allies. It happened at an airport in West Africa, while he was waiting in the office of Colonel Frank Collins, the American Chief of Staff. The telephone rang, and it was our Minister Resident in West Africa, Lord Swinton, on the line. He had some important guests coming to dinner. Could the colonel very kindly let him have three pounds of his excellent American butter?

"Certainly," replied Colonel Collins. "But I'm a little short of cement for a new runway at the aerodrome. Could you possibly spare me three tons of your excellent British cement to finish the job?"

"Why, yes," said Lord Swinton. "I'll gladly exchange three tons of British cement for three pounds of American butter."

So the Minister's guests had a good dinner and the Colonel finished his runway.

Ceylon's New Industry

A HUNDRED years of world supply would not exhaust the quantity of quartz surface-deposits estimated as existing in Ceylon. The purity of the quartz is as high as 98 per cent—much higher than elsewhere. The Government Glass Factory is making the most of these rich mineral resources, and at present it specialises in "pressed" and "blown" glass—making bottles, tumblers, and inkwells—as distinct from sheet and plate glass. Output started at one and a half tons a day, rising to two and a half tons.

An experienced glass-making firm from India is at present running the factory, and at the same time giving technical instruction to Cingalese apprentices. These apprentices will soon be fully trained, and will be able to take over the works in November when the Indian staff returns to India. Ceylon will be left in possession of a vigorous new industry, with great post-war prospects. One of its ambitions is to produce, by means of electro-magnetic separation, optical glass to rival the famous products of the Zeiss works in Germany.

Australia's War History

WORK has already been begun on the official history of Australia's part in this world-war. Altogether 15 volumes are to be written, three of which will be devoted to the Royal Australian Air Force.

The first of these will describe how the RAAF was trained and brought up to fighting strength, the second will deal with the air war against the Japanese, and the third will recount the high deeds of Australian airmen in Europe and the Middle East.

The RAAF has created a Historical Section to compile records and to start research.



HOLIDAYS AT HOME—THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Their Journeys Were Really Necessary

IN these troubled days, when travel seems so difficult, compared with the comfort of pre-war journeys, we are apt to forget that our ancestors, a century or more ago, often went from place to place in appalling conditions.

August 9 is the centenary of a famous Railway Act which did much to improve the lot of the third-class traveller. On August 9, 1844, a Bill introduced by W. E. Gladstone, as President of the Board of Trade, received the Royal Assent, and thus became law.

This Act, the first serious attempt to control the activities of the railways, provided that the railway companies should arrange for the transport of mails, and for the carriage of military, police, and naval bodies with their baggage, stores, and ammunition at reduced charges.

But of far greater importance was that section of the Act which dealt with third-class travel. This laid down that certain railway companies must

run at least one cheap train daily each way along their lines. These trains, whose speed was not to be less than 12 miles an hour, were to stop at every station. Their carriages were to be protected against the weather, and each passenger was to be allowed to take with him up to half a hundredweight of luggage. The fares charged were not to exceed one penny a mile.

Previous to this Act, which certainly did much to promote railway travel in this country, third-class passengers, unable to pay first-class or second-class rates, very often had to ride in open cattle trucks; and, as is the case today when the urgent demands of war-trains, carrying troops or supplies for Normandy, call for such measures, third-class trains, or carriages, were sometimes shunted into sidings and kept there for hours on end.

We can be sure that with the hardships third-class passengers had to endure before this great Railway Act, their journeys were really necessary.

An International House For Edinburgh?

DURING this war there have been established in Edinburgh and Glasgow special houses which have come to be regarded as the meeting centres for those interested in one particular country. An American House, a Polish, a Czechoslovakian, a West Indian House, and so on.

Now the city wants an International House which could be used as a meeting place for all, irrespective of colour, race, or creed. It would be sponsored by the Edinburgh International Club, and in view of the large number of students attending the medical schools and the University it would fill a very great need in peace time, quite apart from its important duty in the present period.

A council is being formed to incorporate all those who have been responsible for the various Houses during the war, University and student bodies, and all others interested. As now visualised International House

would have to be as big as an hotel and with comparable facilities. It would have to be in a central position, and should be available for large gatherings, lectures, and talks.

There has been a great deal of support for the idea of filling-in the gap in the social life of the Scottish capital, the English speaking Union and similar bodies showing much interest.

Churches on Wheels

CHURCHES on wheels are being provided for both Church of England and Free Church chaplains in Normandy. Dr Temple has dedicated the first two.

The travelling churches are mounted on the chassis of converted lorries. They have polished wooden altars, and will carry gramophone records of the peals of church bells and of the music of church organs. They will also be equipped with amplifying apparatus.

BEDTIME CORNER

CRADLE SONG

BABY moon, tis time for bed,
Owlet leaves his nest now;
Hide your little horned head
In the twilight west now;
When you're old and round
and bright
You shall stay and shine all
night.



Baby girl is going too,
In her bed to creep now;
She is little, just like you,
Time it is to sleep now;
When she's old and tired and
wise
She'll be glad to close her eyes.

Riddle

How many hard-boiled eggs
can a hungry man eat on
an empty stomach?

One only, because after one he is not empty.

The Goat and the Lion

A LION one day saw a goat
on a steep rock, where he
could not climb up to him, so
he said:

"What pleasure can you
possibly find in jumping from
one rock to another all day
and risking your neck every
moment? I wonder that you
do not come down here and
feed in the meadow, where
there is plenty of fresh,
green grass."

"Well," replied the goat,
"what you say may be very
true; but you look so hungry
and fierce that I do not care
to come too near."

Beware of the advice of
people who want to gain
something from you.

PRAYER

PROTECT me, dear Jesus, I be-
seech Thee, from all danger
while I sleep, and so guard
and guide me through the day
soon to begin, that I may
have the strength to leave all
naughtiness and wickedness
behind me and do only what
is right in Thy sight now and
for evermore. Amen

Opening Wide All the Doors of Education

FOR many years foreign visitors to this country have been puzzled to find that our Public Schools were, in fact, very private. Entry into them has been largely decided by wealth and social position, and one of the results has been that often, and unjustly, the educational qualities of Public Schools have been condemned as poor.

Now, at last, there is a great hope that the nation will be able to look upon its Public Schools in a new and more balanced light. A Committee appointed two years ago under the Chairmanship of Lord Fleming, to consider how best the Public Schools and our general educational system might co-operate, has just issued its report.

It is notable for a number of suggestions which, if the Public Schools accept them (and they are very sympathetically inclined), cannot fail to have a great and fine effect on the lives of thousands of boys and girls.

The essence of the report is that the Public Schools and the State Schools should pull together, and that the best features of both should be available to any child who earns the right to them, whether his or her parents have wealth or not—that, in short, Britain's educational system should enjoy those democratic principles for which so many men from both types of school have laid down their lives.

To secure this "open door" the Committee proposes two plans—one applying to day and boarding schools, and the other to boarding schools only. The first group of schools would open their doors to suitable children, whose parents would be asked for fees according to their incomes—so that in cases of very low incomes no fees at all would be required. Neither would children be re-

quired to sit for examinations before they were accepted, for the Committee is evidently well aware that many an intelligent boy or girl lacks the "exam-passing temperament," and that a few hours in the examination-room had often ruined a promising career. Instead of exams, children will be selected for these schools as a result of their own school records and Headmasters' reports.

Boarding schools, as distinct from day schools, are to be invited to offer 25 per cent of their yearly admission of pupils to elementary school children—again chosen without examinations—whose fees, upkeep, and perhaps even pocket-money will be paid by the State.

It does not require much far-sightedness to see what a vista these plans open if they are accepted—and it will be irreparable tragedy if they are not. As the Committee points out, both day and boarding Public Schools have valuable qualities to offer in the moulding of youth: co-operation with the home and with parents in the case of the day schools; community living, "mixing" with pupils from many places, physical well-being, and religious training in the case of boarding schools.

The recommendations do not stop at co-operation, however. If they prove acceptable, it will clearly be impossible for the present number of Public Schools

Continued in the next column

THE MARCH TO KANDAHAR

THE death is announced of Colour-Sergeant George Meredith, one of the gallant 10,000 led by Lord Roberts in the famous march from Kabul to Kandahar 64 years ago. The sole survivor of that epic march is now General Sir Ian Hamilton.

During the Second Afghan War, when all the outstanding troubles between the Afghans and the British in India seemed finally dissolved, Ayub Khan, the rebel leader, marched on Kandahar. In July, 1880, a British force which went to meet him was annihilated at Maiwand, the gallant stand of the British soldiers being immortalised in the famous picture of "The Last Eleven at Maiwand."

On hearing the news of the disaster Sir Frederick Roberts, later Earl Roberts of Kandahar, in command of a British army at Kabul, at once set out to relieve the small garrison of Kandahar, now in danger from the Afghans. The forced march to relieve this city is one of the epics of military history. After covering 313 miles of the roughest country in three weeks Roberts met and defeated the army of Ayub Khan and raised the siege of Kandahar.

Dividing the World in 1807

TSAR, an insignificant little town of 40,000 inhabitants in East Prussia, is again in the news. Once before, in 1807, it emerged for a while from its normal obscurity to take a place in history, the sound of its name a menace to British ears, and of ill omen to all Europe.

The Russians and Prussians having been defeated by Napoleon at Friedland in June of that year, the Tsar, gullible Alexander the First, arranged an armistice, and, ten days after the battle, met Napoleon at Tilsit. The interview took place in a gorgeous pavilion erected on a raft moored in the middle of the

Continued from the previous column

to cope with the flow of entrants. A big increase will be inevitable, and it is an increase which the nation, whatever its other financial burdens, cannot but welcome, for, especially as regards boarding schools, it will be proof that education is not so much a training in book-learning as in living.

Indeed, the Committee realises this when it states that "both on educational grounds and in order to effect some small reduction in boarding fees, boarding pupils should continue, as they do now in war-time, to undertake some of the domestic duties of the boarding houses." Perhaps, after all, there was a grain or two of educational value in Mr. Squeers' famous order "W-I-N-D-E-R—go and clean it!" though we may be sure that his motive was very different.

Summing up, the Fleming Report in a few words is attended with much difficulty, for it is an epoch-making event. The recent Education Bill will probably be regarded by historians as one of the greatest reforms in our national story. The Fleming Report is one of the happiest indications the country has yet had that the weary, old, caste-ridden world is being replaced by something better.

A New City of London

THE eagerly awaited plan for rebuilding the blitzed City of London has been revealed, and very naturally has been the cause of much discussion, and much controversy.

The City of London is an area with problems all its own, and the usual kind of town-planning, however admirable, will not solve them. There is no more important square mile in the British Empire, and none so historic; but it is not a city much concerned with 'sightseers'—it is primarily a place where people work, a city thronged with half a million people by day, and deserted at night.

The pre-war City, though far from ideal, was well fitted for its purpose, and the plan, therefore, does not suggest drastic changes. The most sweeping proposals concern a new 80-foot-wide road round the City to relieve traffic congestion, part of which would possibly be a continuance of the tree-lined Victoria Embankment from Blackfriars to London Bridge, and a widening of Ludgate Hill and of the approaches to St Paul's from the south and east. The City authorities realise that in the case of St. Paul's they are trustees of a very precious part of our English heritage, and they are obviously showing real concern that the cathedral shall

have a worthier and more spacious setting.

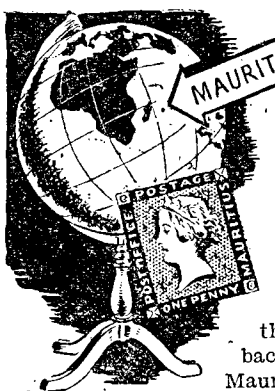
Criticism of the new plan comes chiefly from quarters which feel that a chance of centuries is being thrown away—the chance of creating vital open spaces and magnificent vistas, the chance of making a city worthy of its history and high status, the chance of building the city of their dreams!

The champions of the plan, on the other hand, see in it an admirable carrying-on of tradition, with important concessions both to progress and to beauty. They wish to see a city of commerce rehabilitated. Can it be seriously thought (they ask) that we, proud to have a part in promoting its welfare, are unconscious of the romance and history which the very street-names breathe? We are, however, dealing with an area that cannot be viewed as a museum-piece and—whatever the surface destruction—the City can in no circumstances be regarded as virgin land upon a blank plan of which the pencil of the planner, conscious of his responsibilities, can freely or fancifully travel.

It is a clear case of the old clash between the practical viewpoint and artistic dreamings. But we do not doubt that in the end the typically British genius for compromise will prevail, and that on that compromise will arise a better City of London, but still a London we shall love.

London, the buskined stage
Of History, the archive of the past—
The heart, the centre of the living world!

ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA

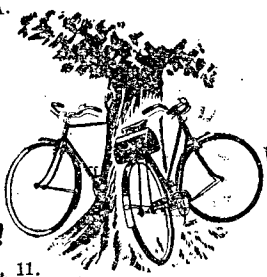


No. 1

England to Madagascar and 550 miles Eastward across the Indian Ocean! Regular supplies of B.S.A. Bicycles make this exciting journey, and we know many of you would like to go along with them. But that isn't possible—so we'll tell you something about this remote corner of the Empire which is famous for—postage stamps! If you find a red or blue stamp bearing the head of Queen Victoria on a lined background and the words "Post Office Mauritius"—it's your lucky day—because it is worth £5,000. James Barnard, a local watch-maker, designed the Mauritius stamp. But little did he dream that his mistake in printing the words "Post Office Mauritius" instead of the correct inscription "Post Paid" would, in less than 100 years, class those penny and twopenny red and blue slips among the world's most valuable stamps. B.S.A. Bicycles and Red and Blue Mauritius stamps—they're both famous. Fortunately B.S.A. Bicycles are only difficult to find in wartime. Ask your parents to see your local dealer about it.

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Don't Despise Summer Colds

Never let Summer Colds get a real grip, especially with children. They are dangerous things. Fortunately, it's easy to prevent them developing.

There's an old-fashioned recipe which has grown so popular that chemists everywhere are keeping it made up, bottled and ready for use. It's the "Parnint" recipe.

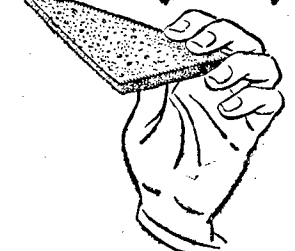
One dose of this Parnint Syrup will ease the most stubborn cough. A few more will start to clear it right away. Just try it and see.

It's grand for children too. Quite safe and with a flavour kiddies positively like.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parnint Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle, including tax.

NOTE.—If you want to make it up yourself ask for a 1 oz. bottle of the Parnint Concentrated Essences (price 3/11). It is even more economical that way.

Little and good!



You get a lot
of goodness
out of a little

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